Target for KVKs

†421. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target had been set for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in about 588 rural districts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Council of Agriculture Research has an extensive network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras under it in about 492 Districts; and

(c) if so, the contribution of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, so far, in enhancing knowledge of farmers alongwith increase in agriculture produce according to set targets with complete details thereof in the light of coming declared plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government have approved for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), one in each of the 578 rural districts in the country (as per India 2002) by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during X Plan, of which 537 have been sanctioned.

(c) A number of factors contribute to increase in agriculture produce including improved technology generated by National Agricultural Research System, extension systems operated by development departments, and policy environment. In order to enhance the knowledge and skill of farmers on improved agricultural technology, during the first four years of X Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06), 26.7 lakh farmers were trained by the KVKs, besides creating awareness by organizing a large number of extension activities including kisan melas, field days, kisan goshties, exhibitions, radio and TV talks, and publication of extension literature.

Recommendations of teams sent to suicide hit regions

422. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the details of incidents of suicide committed by farmers in

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.